

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00300 210828Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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STATE PLEASE PASS USIA FOR IAA MCGINLEY

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SEDU, WA

SUBJECT: BROADCAST OF VOA ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS TO NAMIBIA

REF: USUN 4252, STATE 236671, LUSAKA 2445, CAPE TOWN 696

1. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE, UN COMMISSIONER
FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE AGAIN RAISED POSSIBILITY OF
BROADCASTING TO NAMIBIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LESSONS. MCBRIDE STATED, AND SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM
NUJOMA WHO WAS PRESENT CONFIRMED, THAT ENGLISH IS
BEING INCREASINGLY USED BY NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS
AS LINGUA FRANCA. MCBRIDE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE
THAT VOA AS WELL AS BBC MIGHT BE ABLE TO BEAM
ENGLISH LESSONS TO NAMIBIA IN ORDER HELP
FACILITATE THIS OBJECTIVE. POINT WAS ALSO
MADE THAT BY INCREASING ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00300 210828Z

FLUENCY AMONG NAMIBIANS GREATER NUMBER OF THESE

WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER DIRECTLY OR WITH RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD OF ADVANCED LANGUAGE TRAINING INTO UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN US AND IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES LIKE ZAMBIA WHERE ENGLISH IS LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION.

2. UNLIKE EARLIER REQUEST BY MCBRIDE TO AMB WHITE REPORTED USUN REFTEL, MCBRIDE DID NOT ASK FOR LOAN OF VOA ENGLISH LESSON TAPES TO SWAPO FOR BROADCAST OVER RADIO ZAMBIA. ACCORDINGLY, WE SEE NO POLITICAL OBJECTION AND IN FACT FIND CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN EXAMINING SYMPATHETICALLY WHETHER VOA CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO MCBRIDE REQUEST. ENGLISH TEACHING BROADCASTS BEAMED TO NAMIBIA OVER VOA WOULD AVOID IDENTIFICATION WITH SWAPO WHICH WAS PRIMARY OBJECTION TO EARLIER MCBRIDE REQUEST. THEY WOULD HAVE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF DEMONSTRATING USG READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA IN AN AREA WHERE OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE PRACTICAL IMPACT AND WOULD NOT IDENTIFY US WITH ANY ONE POLITICAL GROUP WITHIN NAMIBIA. MOREOVER, BY HELPING NAMIBIANS WHO WISH TO DO SO TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH WE WILL BE INCREASING RESERVOIR OF THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO PROFIT FAIRLY PROMPTLY FROM TECHNICAL AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. NEIGHBORING ANGOLANS AND OTHERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD OF COURSE SIMILARLY BENEFIT.

3. URGE DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WITH USIA AND VOA POSSIBILITIES FOR INITIATING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING BROADCASTS BEAMED TO NAMIBIA. N.B. MCBRIDE ASSURED US VOA SIGNAL FROM MONROVIA IS RECEIVED CLEARLY IN NAMIBIA.

4. USIS CONCURS IN EXPLORING FEASIBILITY THIS PROPOSAL.
NELSON

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